

**REMARKS**

An RCE is filed with this Amendment. In view of the indication of allowability of claims 8 and 16, at paragraph 13 of the 10/05/2005 Office Action, claim 1 has been amended to include the content of claim 8, and claim 12 has been amended to include the content of claims 15 and 16, excluding the clutch operation lever in claim 15. Claims 1 and 12 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 18 and 23 are allowed.

Claims 7, 15, 16 and 20-23 have been cancelled. New claims 24-26 have been added. These new claims generally include the content of claim 7 and the purge gas ports described at 0062-63. In view of the Examiner's comments concerning the sealed structure (regarding claim 7 at page 4 of the 10/05/2005 Office Action), these new claims should also be in condition for allowance because they all include sealed structures and purge gas ports. The Chapman and Lindsay references both have permanent openings, or lightening holes. Neither reference suggests a sealed and gas purged structure, as claimed.

New claims 27-30 depend from new claim 26. New claim 27 generally describes the size adjustment feature of claim 1. New claims 28-30 similarly generally include content from claims 8, 9 and 16, respectively.

[Continued on next page.]

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Dated: Dec. 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Customer No. 34055  
Perkins Coie LLP  
Patent - LA  
P.O. Box 1208  
Seattle, WA 98111-1208  
Phone: (310) 788-9900  
Fax: (206) 332-7198

PERKINS COIE LLP

By: Kenneth H. Ohrner  
Kenneth H. Ohrner  
Reg. No. 31,646